

# MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW.

Editor: Prof. CLEVELAND ABBE.

VOL. XXIII.

FEBRUARY, 1895.

No. 2.

## INTRODUCTION.

The REVIEW for February, 1895, is based on reports from 3,202 stations occupied by regular and voluntary observers. These reports are classified as follows: 148 reports from Weather Bureau stations; 35 reports from U. S. Army post surgeons; 2,345 monthly reports from State Weather Service and voluntary observers; 31 reports from Canadian stations; 96 reports through the Southern Pacific Railway Company; 531 marine reports through the cooperation of the Hydrographic Office, Navy Department, and "New York Herald Weather Service;" monthly reports from 16 U. S.

Life-Saving stations; monthly reports from local services established in all States and Territories; and international simultaneous observations. Trustworthy newspaper extracts and special reports have also been used.

The WEATHER REVIEW for this month has been prepared under the general editorial supervision of Prof. Cleveland Abbe. Unless otherwise specifically noted, the text is written by the Editor, but the statistical tables are furnished by the Division of Records and Meteorological Data, in charge of Mr. A. J. Henry, acting chief of that division.

## CHARACTERISTICS OF THE WEATHER FOR FEBRUARY, 1895.

The most prominent feature during February was the great area of high pressure and the attending cold wave that passed from Alberta on the 5th southward to Texas and eastward to the Atlantic coast on the 7th and 8th. A special bulletin was issued illustrating this storm and cold wave. This was followed by persistent cold weather. The average temperature

for February was the lowest on record over a greater portion of the Gulf and south Atlantic States. The snowfall was remarkably heavy in the Sierra Nevada, and also unusual in the Atlantic States. The total precipitation of rain and melted snow was below the average throughout the interior of the country. Two severe storms passed northeastward along the Atlantic coast.

## ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE.

*[In inches and hundredths.]*

The distribution of mean atmospheric pressure reduced to sea level, as shown by mercurial barometers not reduced to standard gravity and as determined from observations taken daily at 8 a. m. and 8 p. m. (seventy-fifth meridian time), is shown by isobars on Chart II. That portion of the reduction to standard gravity that depends on latitude is shown by the numbers printed on the right-hand border.

During the current month the highest mean pressures have been confined to the north and east slopes of the Rocky Mountains. The extreme highest was 30.88 at Idaho Falls. The lowest mean pressures were in Maine and the Maritime Provinces of Canada. The extreme lowest was 29.64 at Sydney, C. B. I., and St. Johns, N. F.

As compared with the normal for February the mean pressure for the current month was deficient in Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, New England, and the middle Atlantic coast. With the exception of Yuma and San Diego it was in excess over the whole of the rest of the country. The maximum excess was 0.21 at Lander.

As compared with the preceding month of January the pressures reduced to sea level show a maximum rise of 0.25 at Tatoosh Island and Portland, Oreg., and a maximum fall of 0.32 at Sydney.

The systematic periodic diurnal variations of pressure are shown by the hourly means given in Table V.

### AREAS OF HIGH PRESSURE.

The tracks of the centers of areas of high pressure are shown on Chart IV, which also gives the maximum pressure at the center at each date.

Of these areas the most remarkable is No. V, which first appeared on the 5th, p. m., in Alberta, and disappeared on the 9th, a. m., in Tennessee, the maximum central pressure was 31.38 on the 6th, a. m.; 31.32 on the 6th, p. m., and 31.18 on the 7th, a. m., in North Dakota. These are among the highest pressures on record, and undoubtedly represent very closely the maximum that is even temporarily possible in this region of the globe. At Havre the observer reported that the blizzard of February 5 was the worst on record in that vicinity. In this storm First Sergt. James Brown, of the Tenth Cavalry, was frozen to death. On the 7th, a. m., this area extended over the greater portion of the United States, Canada, and Mexico. By the 7th, p. m., the low area that had developed on the Atlantic coast assisted in drawing the cold air from the interior eastward over Florida which was visited by a cold wave of about the same severity as that of December, 1894. During the interval, 6-16th, a